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RAJYA SABHA

The following Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th February, 1955:—

Bill No. III of 1955

A Bill to apply the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 to working journalists.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. This Act may be called the Working Journalists (Industrial Short title. Disputes) Act, 1955.

2. In this Act,—

Definitions.

(a) 'newspaper' has the meaning assigned to it in the Press XXV of 1867 and Registration of Books Act, 1867;

(b) 'working journalist' means a person whose principal avocation is that of a journalist and who is employed as such in, or in relation to, any establishment for the production or publication of a newspaper or in or in relation to any news agency or syndicate supplying material for publication in any newspaper, and includes an editor, a leader-writer, news editor, sub-editor, feature-writer, copy-taster, reporter, correspondent, cartoonist, news-photographer and proof-reader, but does not include any such person who—

(i) is employed in a managerial or administrative capacity, or

(ii) being employed in a supervisory capacity, exercises, either by the nature of the duties attached to the office or by reason of the powers vested in him, functions of a managerial nature.

Act XIV of 1947 to apply to working journalists. 3. The provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, shall apply to, or in relation to, working journalists as they apply to, or in relation to, workmen within the meaning of that Act.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

One of the matters referred to the Press Commission was the settlement of disputes affecting working journalists. The Press Commission examined the position in the light of judicial pronouncements and found that working journalists did not come within the scope of the Industrial Disputes Act. The Commission, however, considered it essential that working journalists should be entitled to the benefits of the procedure for the investigation and settlement of disputes envisaged in that Act.

The present Bill is designed to achieve that object by extending the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, for the time being in force, to apply to working journalists as they apply to workmen within the meaning of that Act.

B. V. KESKAR

NEW DELHI;
The 18th January, 1955

S. N. MUKERJEE,
Secretary.